

Spiritual Notes.

A Monthly Epitome of the
Transactions of Spiritual and Psychological Societies,

AND

AUXILIARY TO THE SPIRIT CIRCLE, MEDIUM, AND LECTURER.

REPORTS—ANNOUNCEMENTS—REVIEWS.

VOL. I.—No. XXI.]

MARCH, 1880.

[PRICE TWOPENCE.]

BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(ESTABLISHED 1873.)

38, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.

President:—ALEXANDER CALDER, Esq.

This Association possesses a Library, which contains a large collection of the best works on Spiritualism and occult subjects, and a Reading Room, where Spiritualist and other newspapers and periodicals from all parts of the world are regularly supplied. The Offices of the Association are open every day, Sundays excepted. Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; other days, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Country members, with privilege of voting for members of Council, and of receiving the reports of the

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| Association | 0 5 0 |
| Town members, do., do. | 0 10 6 |
| Members, with use of reading-rooms and library, and the right of purchasing tickets for the sêances, and taking out one volume from the lending library | 1 1 0 |
| Family tickets, with all privileges | 2 2 0 |
| Town members to be understood as those residing within the metropolitan postal district. | |

All communications and enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Miss C. A. BURKE, 38, Great Russell Street, to whom Post Office Orders may be made payable, at the Great Russell Street Office.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 1880.

Monday, 1st.—Discussion Meeting at 8 p.m. Paper by Mr. E. T. Bennett on "Spiritual Power as a Curative Agency."

Friday, 5th.—Finance Committee at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 9th.—Finance Committee at 6 p.m. Council Meeting at 6.30 p.m.

Monday, 15th.—Soirée Committee at 5 p.m. Discussion Meeting at 8 p.m. Paper by Mr. A. T. T. Peterson on "The Philosophy of Spirit Control."

Monday, 22nd.—Experimental Research Committee at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, 23rd.—Soirée at 38, Great Russell Street. Music, Conversation, and Kefreshments, from 6.30 p.m.

Admission to Members and their friends. 1s. each.

EASTER CLOSING.

The Rooms of the B.N.A.S. will be closed for the Easter Vacation on Wednesday Evening, March 24th, and will re-open on Monday, April 5th, at 2 p.m.

C. A. BURKE, Secretary.

MR. J. J. MORSE,

TRANCE SPEAKER.

Is open to receive calls to lecture in all parts of the United Kingdom. A large selection of choice English and American works upon Spiritualism continually on sale.—Address all communications to J. J. Morse, Progressive Literature Agency, 22, Faldine Road, Stoke Newington, London, N.

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MR. C. E. WILLIAMS,

61, LAMB'S CONDUIT STREET, W.C.

At home daily from 12 till 5. On Thursday and Saturday evenings from 8 o'clock for reception of friends.

DALSTON ASSOCIATION OF ENQUIRERS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

A SERIES of FORTNIGHTLY TUESDAY EVENING SUBSCRIPTION SÈANCES, under favourable test conditions with various mediums, will be continued on 2nd and 16th inst., at 8 o'clock. Medium, Mr. W. G. HAXBY. A limited number of Tickets will be issued for each Sêance, price 2s. 6d. Members can obtain tickets on application, prior to date of each Sêance, of the Hon. Sec., 53, Sigdon Road, Dalston Lane, Hackney Downs, E.

MR. J. WILLIAM FLETCHER,

RECEIVES DAILY AT

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From 12 to 6.

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(Medium of Count de Bullet),

Will hold his

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52, MORNINGTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.

Mr. Firman will be at home every day, except Sunday, from 12 to 5, to make arrangements for Private Sittings.

EDWIN CLAFTON,

STORS HILL, OSSETT,

Begs to notify that he is now open for Engagements as Trance Healing Medium.

MR. WM. G. HAXBY,

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CURATIVE MESMERIST,

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Near Uxbridge Road Station.

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Rubber, has REMOVED to 51, George-street, Euston-road, where she sees patients by appointment only. Ladies suffering from weakness, misplacement, or prolapsus, speedily cured without medicine. Terms moderate.

MISS ANNIE WAITE, the Talented Elocutionist, is giving a series of Entertainments in QUEBEC HALL, assisted by Mr. F. J. Wilson, Mr. Iver MacDonnell, and others. Vocal and Instrumental Music. Doors open at 7.30, commence at 8. ADMISSION FREE. Collection during the Evening.

DESSERT SERVICES FOR SALE.—

J. M. DALE begs to announce that he is selling a number of Dessert Services at unprecedented low prices—i.e., 18 pieces from 13s., worth 18s. 6d. In addition to the bargain in the dessert service he will pre-ent to the fifteen purchasers a Parian Bust of Dr. Livingstone, with shade and stand complete. When the services are sold the Bust will be presented to the successful person at the close of Miss Waite's entertainment on a Monday evening at Quebec Hall.

BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(ESTABLISHED 1873.)

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Sociedad Espirita Central de la Republica Mexicana. President—Senor Refugio T. Gonzalez, 7, Calle de Alameda, Mexico.
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The Great Yarmouth Association of Investigators into Spiritualism. Hon. Sec., R. R. Dale, Esq., 3, Water Park Terrace Southtown-road, Great Yarmouth.

FAREWELL ADDRESS TO MRS. HOLLIS-BILLING.

On Thursday evening, February 12th, a large and representative body of Spiritualists assembled at Neumeyer Hall, Bloomsbury, to bid farewell to Mrs. Hollis-Billing, who is returning to America. The chair was taken by Mr. Stainton-Moses, M.A., and the speakers included Mr. C. C. Massey, Mr. Burns, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Hallock, Dr. Wyld, and Mr. Slater. A hearty congratulatory telegram was received from Mr. Morse, who was unable to be present, and excuses were read from Mr. Oxley, of Manchester, Mr. F. W. Percival, Mrs. Makdougall Gregory, Sir C. Isham, and more than twenty other friends.

Among those present we noticed Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Wiseman, Mr. Annesley Mayne, Mrs. and Mr. D. G. Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. Going, Mrs. Slater, Miss Houghton, Mrs. and Miss Burke, Colonel Chamberlain, Mr. Thos. Shorter, Mrs. Tebb, Mr. Collingwood, Mr. Ivimey, Mrs. Maltby, Mrs. Woodforde, Mr. Ward, Miss Lennon, who contributed largely to the harmony of the meeting by some excellent vocal music, and many others well-known in connection with the movement. The hall was well filled, and the proceedings were characterised throughout with much heartiness and unanimity.

A handsomely illuminated address was presented to Mrs. Billing in the course of the evening; and subsequently a purse of money, which had been subscribed by her friends as a spontaneous mark of their appreciation of her services as a medium, and her worth as a woman, was privately handed to her. Mrs. Billing leaves us with the kindest wishes for her safe journey and speedy return from a large circle of friends. The address is as follows:—

TO MRS. MARY J. HOLLIS-BILLING.

DEAR MADAM,—On the eve of your departure from amongst us, we, Spiritualists of London, desire to express to you our sense of the services that you have rendered to the cause of Spiritualism during your residence in this country. The uniform courtesy and kindness of your manner have endeared you to a large circle of friends whose good wishes will follow you to your native country. . . . The readiness with which you have placed your mediumistic gifts at the disposal of Spiritualists in general has laid them under a deep debt of obligation, and has been of material service to the movement. Though the ties of personal association must now be severed, we trust that the day is not far distant when they may be re-united. In the meantime we beg to assure you that we shall ever entertain a feeling of friendship for you, and of interest in your work, and that we very cordially wish you every temporal and spiritual blessing.—We are, Dear Madam, with much respect, yours in the cause of Truth.

(SIGNED BY TWENTY REPRESENTATIVE SPIRITUALISTS).

M. Francois Vallès, summarising the views of the late illustrious Claude Bernard, says:—"In the body of man, even setting aside that which concerns thought, and taking simply the organism into consideration, there exists an active principle which is neither physical nor chemical, and which all who can place honour and self respect above their passions must take into consideration.—*Revue Spirite*."

Proceedings of Societies.

BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

THE Council met on February 10th—Alexander Calder, Esq., the President, in the chair. The other members present were Mr. Morell Theobald, Mr. E. Dawson Rogers, Mrs. Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. Desmond Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. Maltby, Mr. E. T. Bennett, Miss Houghton, the Rev. W. Stainton-Moses, Mr. C. Reimers, Mr. W. H. Coffin, and Mr. F. Podmore.

Some resignations having been accepted, Major-General Maclean was proposed as a member and was elected. Another gentleman was proposed but was not elected, the votes in his favour not being, as the rules require, the votes of three-fourths of the members present at the meeting.

Mr. R. A. March resigned his office as a member of Council, and his resignation was accepted.

A letter was read from Mr. Dale, of Yarmouth, and a resolution was passed agreeing to the alliance of the Yarmouth Society with the B.N.A.S.

The SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. F. A. Binney, of Manchester, suggesting a means of testing in materialisation séances. The letter was referred to the Séance Committee.

A letter was read from Captain Ahlstrom, of Gothenburg, asking whether the Association would purchase Swedenborg's house, in Stockholm, which had come into his possession, the price being £4,000. The Secretary was directed to communicate Captain Ahlstrom's offer to the Swedenborg Society.

Mr. R. Palmer Thomas presented to the Association the flower which was brought to him at a sitting with Mrs. Simpson, the well-known Chicago flower-medium, and also the goblet into which it was placed, under strict test conditions, as narrated in last month's *Spiritual Notes*.—A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Thomas for the presentation.

Miss Houghton presented a volume, "Noble Purpose Nobly Won," by Mrs. Anne Manning, being a life of Joan of Arc, for the use of the lending library. This library, she said, was just now more in need of assistance than the other, and she hoped contributors would bear this fact in mind.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Houghton for the gift.

The Soirée Committee reported that it was proposed to hold the next soirée on Tuesday, March 23, and that they hoped to have an attractive programme.

Mr. E. DAWSON ROGERS, on the part of the Séance Committee, reported the arrangements for a series of séances with Mrs. Fletcher. He also stated that the Committee, subject to the confirmation of the Council, had acceded to a request of Mr. E. T. Bennett for leave to hold a series of séances with Mrs. Corner, on the premises of the Association, open to members only, with the condition that two members of the Séance Committee should be present at each séance. In a communication to Mr. Bennett Mrs. Corner had not only consented to attend these séances, but had voluntarily expressed her readiness to submit to any tests that the circle could devise. The Committee

had also had under consideration the motions of which Mr. Stainton-Moses had given notice for the regulation of séances, and had agreed that they would offer no opposition to motions I. and III. The motions were as under :—

1. That under no circumstances shall a cabinet or other contrivance for secluding the medium from view be used at any séance held in the rooms of the B.N.A.S. to which inquirers or strangers are admitted.
2. That light reasonably sufficient for exact observation, in the judgment of the member of Committee in charge of the séance, shall in all cases be maintained.
3. That these Resolutions shall be conspicuously posted in the Séance Room, and shall be brought to the notice of all who are admitted to the séances.

The report of the Séance Committee having been accepted,

Mr. STAINTON-MOSES said it had been suggested to him that in proposing such sweeping changes as these resolutions covered he was indirectly reflecting upon the past management of the séances of this Association. In reply to such suggestions he should like at once to say with the utmost possible distinctness that it was not his habit to make indirect reflections upon anybody, but that whatever he had to say he always said so directly that none but the most perverse minds could misunderstand his meaning. What he had said already, and what he now said, contained no reflection, either expressed or implied, upon the management of the séances, or upon any committee of this Council. He considered the question to be one of such absolute importance as to touch the well-being of the Association, and of the movement at large. We were the most representative body of cultured Spiritualists in England, and upon the action which we took very much depended the action of other people, not only in this country but in other countries as well. He had found the late event acting and re-acting in a way which could not be exaggerated, and he had therefore felt it impossible to allow a single meeting of this Council to pass without taking its sense upon what he considered to be a question of such vital importance. He might say, indeed, that he could not have satisfied his conscience to remain in overt connection with Spiritualism in England without attempting to induce the Association to purge itself of all complicity with what he regarded as a fatal system of investigation. He was glad to find that there was a general consensus of opinion that what he had put upon paper was both wise and good; but he admitted that there was some difference of opinion as to whether it was practicable. Taking the thing, however, to be right and true in its essence, the question whether it was practicable or not at the present moment should not, he thought, enter into our consideration. He felt strongly that the holding of cabinet séances, giving as they did facilities for fraud, whether by the mediums or the spirits, had been productive of nearly everything which had brought discredit on the movement, and that fact alone should, he thought, induce us to pause before we gave encouragement to the continuance of such methods of investigation. Some people said, "But without cabinet séances there are phenomena which we cannot get;" and

to these people he would reply, "Then let us do without the phenomena." He begged the Council, however, to understand that he was dealing with those séances only to which inquirers were admitted. He had nothing to say against cabinet séances conducted privately, except that they were oftentimes very fruitful sources of bewilderment; but he objected to them as a means of showing phenomena to people who knew nothing whatever of Spiritualism, and who simply came to such séances to see what they could see. He regarded it therefore as most essential that the Council should say definitely that no cabinet séances should be held upon these premises, to which inquirers should be admitted. His second resolution, to exclude darkness, he did not desire to press, as he readily admitted that there were some very desirable phenomena which could not be obtained without it, and dark séances might be made perfectly satisfactory to any reasonable investigators. As to the first and third resolutions he was glad to hear that the Séance Committee did not object to them, and he would therefore now move their adoption. He disclaimed any attempt to bind the committee by hard and fast rules, and the committee might still, by the leave of the Council, have the liberty, in an exceptional case, to use the methods of investigation which had hitherto prevailed. But what he desired was the affirmation of a principle, and the ability hereafter to point to the fact that immediately after the recent event the Council resolved that cabinet séances should be abolished. He moved the adoption of resolutions I. and III.

Mrs. FITZ-GERALD seconded the motion.

Mr. THEOBALD said that since this unfortunate occurrence he had been in communication with Mr. A. R. Wallace, who attributed all the blame to the Association for having permitted promiscuous circles. There were mediums in this country who could obtain the same manifestations without cabinets, and this was notably the case with Dr. Monck. He was glad to say that the testimonial which he was promoting for Dr. Monck now amounted to nearly £200, and that his "spiritual inventions," so far from being mere chimeras, promised to be very valuable indeed. When the doctor's health was restored he would again exercise his mediumship without charge, and the first offer of his services would be to the Council of this Association.

Mr. DAWSON ROGERS suggested an alteration in the first resolution. By withdrawing the second resolution it was intended that the use of dark séances for inquirers should still be permitted, but the words in the first resolution, "cabinet or other contrivance for secluding the medium from view" would have the same effect as the passing of the second resolution would have had, for darkness was certainly a "contrivance for secluding the medium from view." If Mr. Stainton-Moses would substitute the words "or other contrivance for separating the medium from the circle," he should be happy to support his motion, which it was desirable should be carried unanimously.

Mr. STAINTON-MOSES assented, and the first resolution having been altered accordingly, his motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. C. REIMERS said that if we accommodated ourselves completely to mishaps the effect which this would have on the public mind would, he

thought, be injurious, and he suggested therefore that we should try again to have sances with Mrs. Corner.

Mr. DAWSON ROGERS said that arrangements with this view were already under consideration.

DALSTON ASSOCIATION.

SESSION OF COUNCIL.

THE Council met on Thursday evening, 12th ult.,—Mr. E. J. Davey in the chair.

The previous minutes were confirmed.

Correspondence of general interest was read from Mrs. Edward Elgie Corner, Mr. A. E. Hunter, and Miss Burke.

Mr. S. Williams was elected an ordinary member. The resignation of membership of Mr. A. Tucker was accepted with regret.

The current cash accounts were submitted and passed.

The hon. secretary was authorised to make suitable arrangements for the last Thursday evening's séance in the current month.

The proceedings were then brought to a close.

NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting, adjourned from January 26th, was held on Thursday evening, 12th ult., Mr. George Robert Tapp being voted into the chair.

The advertisement convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the previous annual general meeting of February 6th, 1879, were confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary read the report of the Council, from which it appeared that the financial outcome for the past year was an unfavourable one, resulting in a deficit of £3 13s. 5d. The stock has been increased to £83 8s. 7d., after deducting 8 per cent. on a gross total of £90 13s. 7d. for depreciation in value. The Council desire to impress upon the general body of members the urgency of recruiting their numbers if the efficiency of the Association is to be maintained during the ensuing year, and hope that each one will individually use every effort to interest friends and acquaintances in the proceedings. The library, containing between 200 and 300 volumes, has received a goodly number of valuable additions through the generosity of various authors and others. The ordinary experimental Thursday evening sances had been unproductive of any markedly satisfactory results, due in a great measure to the absence of developed mediumship among those who have attended, as well as to the ever-varying conditions presented at sances of this character. Special arrangements had been made for friendly visits from various well-known mediums on the last Thursday evening séance in each month, on which occasions considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings. Referring to the series of fortnightly Tuesday evening subscription sances, some interesting phenomena had been observed; and it is intended to continue them so long as a demand for such opportunities is manifested by the members. The Council was glad to observe indications of an increased interest taken in the fortnightly Monday evening discussion meetings, and recommend the members to induce the attendance of visitors.

After a few comments, the adoption of the report and statements of account was proposed by Mr. Thos. K. Howden, seconded by Mr. R. Bodmer, F.C.S., and, on being put to the meeting, was carried.

The following officers were elected for the current year:—Mr. Thos. Everitt, Vice-President; Messrs. T. Blyton, R. Bodmer, F.C.S., E. J. Davey, J. Bruce Gillon, Thos. K. Howden, J. Tozeland, and Thos. Wilks, Members of Council; and Mr. Thos. Blyton, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

On the motion of Mr. Thos. Blyton, seconded by Mr. E. J. Davey, it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Thos. Everitt be invited to become President.

It was proposed by Mr. Thos. Blyton, seconded by Mr. Thomas J. Diss, and resolved "That it be a recommendation to the Council that in order to secure the most favourable opportunities for the observation and study of the various phases of phenomena, the Council shall make efforts to engage the services of some reputed medium for at least one Thursday evening's séance in each month, admission to which shall be by payment from members, the charges to be regulated by the Council at their discretion."

Mr. Thos. Blyton moved, and Mr. E. J. Davey seconded, the following resolution:—"That advantage be taken of Mr. Thos. Walker's visit to London by securing his services for a public lecture under the auspices of the Association."

The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried; and Messrs. E. J. Davey, S. Williams, and Thos. Blyton were appointed as a committee, with power to add to their number, to carry out the resolution.

Mr. T. J. Diss moved that a hearty vote of thanks be awarded to the late president and officers of the Association for their kind services during the past year. The chairman seconded the motion, and, on being put to the meeting, it was carried unanimously.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

FORTNIGHTLY DISCUSSION MEETING.

On Monday evening, the 9th ult., an address was delivered by Mr. Thos. Shorter upon "Mediums and Our Relations to Them." Dr. Alfred R. Benson presided.

Mr. SHORTER said that it was somewhat difficult to put forward new views upon a subject that had so often engaged the attention of Spiritualists, and had been discussed repeatedly. Still, as it was a matter of the highest importance, he would endeavour to amplify what he had said with regard to it on former occasions. Concerning tests at physical sances it was urged that all tests tried should be conclusive, and that great care should be taken to satisfy the sitters; that nothing should be taken for granted, but that each manifestation should be indisputably proved to the satisfaction of all present. On the other hand, it was said that under enforced test conditions, manifestations were either rendered impossible or very difficult, which was prejudicial alike to the phenomena and the medium; that a directly opposite course should be followed, and the medium and the spirits left to their own devices; that unlimited confidence should be placed in both, and that then ample proofs of the reality of the phenomena would spon-

taneously be given. These differing views were constantly brought under our attention, sometimes by the same persons at different periods, apparently without any sense of incongruity. The consequence of such conflicting views was only too well known by the result. A shabby kind of compromise was arrived at, combining the disadvantages of both plans and nothing else. Sceptical inquirers were more unconvinced than ever, while confiding investigators were lulled into a false sense of security. It was plainly of the greatest necessity to come to a distinct idea as to which of the two methods should be pursued. He was of opinion that tests were a matter of detail according to the class of phenomena studied or sought for. But if used at all tests should be of a conclusive character, otherwise they were unjust as much to the medium as to the sitters. Many of the controlling intelligences were willing that their mediums should submit to tests; and that being so, the sitters had an undoubted right to demand that those tests should be to their satisfaction, and that all conditions which tended to produce suspicion or confirm prejudice should be eliminated. Cabinets, seclusion, or darkness, should never be permitted at any public spirit circle. If conditions admitting of fraud were necessary it would be better to do away with physical manifestations altogether. Mr. Shorter then alluded to the striking manifestations obtained in past years through the mediumship of Mr. Home and others, many of which he had been privileged to witness. No cabinet or darkness was then required. It was at a later period that the use of a cabinet was first introduced into England by the Davenport Brothers. He was of opinion that we should never get rid of exposures and scandals so long as paid mediumship remained a calling, the temptations to deceive were so numerous and great. He did not say that mediums should not be remunerated for their time and expenditure of physical strength, but he thought that paid mediumship as an entire occupation should be utterly discountenanced. Mediums should not wholly rely upon a fluctuating and uncertain gift which many of them, it was only too clear, did at times supplement by trickery and dishonesty. Let them by all means use their gift at proper intervals for the benefit of Spiritualism and themselves, but let them also endeavour to work at other callings, and be independent of the spirits.

An animated discussion ensued in which the chairman and others took part, and the proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Society was held on January 26th, John Mould, Esq., president, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous quarterly meeting having been confirmed, the secretary read the following:—

REPORT FOR THE PAST QUARTER.

"Your committee with pleasure presents the following report for the past quarter ending December 31st, 1879:—The number of subscribing

members is 150; life members, 3; and honorary members, 15. The lectures have been held regularly, and consisted of 26 trances and 6 normal addresses. They have all been most excellent and well sustained the movement. The most prominent feature has been the visits of Mr. Thos. Walker, of Melbourne, whose eloquent and polished addresses were highly appreciated. The Lecture Hall, in Nelson-street, was engaged for him on his last visit, and the audiences attending his lectures there have been computed as varying from 700 to 800. Although these lectures proved financially a loss, yet they were very successful in bringing our cause to the attention of large numbers of the public who previously knew little of the subject. The lectures also of the Rev. Stoddart and Prof. Coates were greeted with warm approbation, and those of Messrs. Morse, Wright, Wallis, Lambelle, Westgarth, and others, completed one of the finest list of speakers that have ever lectured on Spiritualism in one quarter before a Tyneside audience. Your executive is glad to be able to report that they have been enabled to arrange for a series of lectures by Mr. Jas. Wright during the forthcoming year, as also by Mr. E. W. Wallis. The sésances with Miss Wood have been regularly held as previously, and under strict test conditions. She has given 35 sésances during the quarter, at which the attendance was 784, which your committee considers a much more healthy number than the inflated ones reported for the previous quarter; and consequently the sésances are more comfortable. The phenomena have been good, under rigid test conditions, and, if lacking somewhat in variety, have been steady, and have astonished some of the visitors. Some Spiritualists seem to think that the spirits could, if so disposed, release the medium from the cage, and make her personate the forms. Such persons should remember that the Society's aim is primarily to place good reliable evidence before people who know nothing of the subject, and who will make no allowance for spirits, and require satisfactory evidence of such beings first; therefore, when the sésances are so arranged that the medium unaided cannot release herself the manifestations are, to say the least, startling to sceptics. The above return does not include the sésance given by Miss Wood in aid of the bazaar, at which about 40 were present, and two sésances given to distinguished visitors by permission of the committee; or to either of the sésances given by Mr. Nicholson when Miss Wood was away for a holiday. This gentleman kindly accepted the committee's invitation, and if the results were not so good as he obtained elsewhere this cannot be wondered at considering that he was strange to the place. Had he been able to have an extended series of sésances in our rooms no doubt the results would have been excellent. Your committee has endeavoured to consult the comfort of members and friends attending these sésances by fixing a new stove capable of adequately warming the room, and yet not emitting light. They have fairly accomplished this at some expense, and they hope it will be appreciated. The great feature of the quarter has been the success attending the bazaar. The ladies worked with most laudable zeal, and the result was a very handsome response from friends, both far and near, far exceeding even the most sanguine anticipations. The ladies subsequently

met your committee, and submitted a statement of receipts and expenditure showing a balance available for investment of £110. Some trustees were appointed from amongst the ladies and your committee with instructions to invest the same at interest, and to hold it for the sole purpose of building or purchasing more suitable premises. The money has since been invested in the preference shares of a building society at 5 per cent. per annum, and will remain there till additional capital is raised, or a hall purchased. Your committee can but feel highly gratified at such a result, and most heartily thank all those kind friends who in any way assisted the ladies on that occasion. A movement was started, and successfully carried out, by which the members and friends of this Society were enabled to present to the public free library of our town 21 volumes of the choicest works in the literature of our movement, thus enabling our fellow-townsmen to obtain more correct ideas concerning our cause. Your committee with pleasure acknowledges the gift of the first volume of the *Psychological Review* from the Council of the British National Association of Spiritualists, accompanied with congratulations on the success of the bazaar. The year was brought to a close with a happy evening. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and our hearty thanks are due to the ladies and gentlemen who contributed so ably to the harmony prevailing.

"Mr. Geo. Wilson, who has charge of the department for free distribution of literature, reports for the past six months as follows:—During that period there has been distributed a little over 600 copies of the pamphlet 'Testimonials of Eminent Men on Spiritualism,' and about 250 copies of *The Medium*, also 2,000 small leaflets containing 'Information How to Investigate,' and 100 'Seed Corn,' about 3,000 in all. There have been sold about 870 copies of the 'Testimonial Tract,' which includes 375 to the book stall, for which Mr. Wilson holds the sum of 14s. 2d. There are about 3,500 of the 'Testimonials,' and 1,600 of the leaflets 'How to Investigate,' with a small number of other leaflets, pamphlets, &c., still available for distribution. The auditors have examined your treasurer's accounts and certify them as follows:—

"Dr.—Balance in hands of treasurer last quarter, £1 7s. 10d.; collections at lectures, £31 5s. 3½d.; collections at séances, £16 2s. 10d.; members subscriptions, £7 17s. 5d.; balance from "Happy Evening," £2 3s. 7d.; balance due to treasurer, £18 11s. 2½d.—total, £77 8s. 1½d.

"Outstanding accounts:—Joiner for repairs, and stove for séance room.

"Cr.—Lecturer's fees and expenses, and Miss Wood's salary, £49 15s.; advertising and bill posting, £8 18s. 6d.; printing and literature for distribution, £1 5s. 6d.; hire of harmonium, &c., 14s.; sundries, 16s.; rent, £12; gas and coals, £1 2s. 2d.; housekeeping expenses, £1 19s.; stamps and stationery, 17s. 11½d.—total, £77 8s. 1½d.

"Your librarian reports that the library now contains 206 volumes, of which 116 have been issued to members during the quarter, and 50 are in circulation at present; also that 60 members have had the loan of works during the same period.

"Your committee retire from office on the expiration of their term, and it will be your duty

this evening to elect another executive. In conclusion, then, they beg to thank all who have co-operated with them, and assisted in bringing another year's work to a successful termination."

The adoption of the report was moved by Messrs. Kay and Compton, and, after being duly discussed by the members, was carried unanimously.

Messrs. Robson and Burton moved, "That the report be sent to *The Medium*, *Spiritual Notes*, and *Newcastle Examiner*." This was agreed to.

The executive for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, John Mould; vice-presidents, W. C. Robson and W. Hunter; treasurer, John Coltman; financial secretary, F. Pickup; corresponding secretary, H. A. Kersey; assistant secretary, J. Cameron; auditors, E. F. Blake and H. Burton; librarian, T. D. Smedley; committee, Messrs. G. Wilson, J. Unwin, J. Haydock, L. Bristol, H. Kay, T. Dawson, J. Walton, and S. Compton.

Further business having been transacted, and plans and suggestions for the future discussed, Messrs. Routledge and Dawson moved, "That the thanks of this meeting be accorded to the proprietor and editor of the *Newcastle Examiner* for the able and fearless manner in which they have discussed and advocated the Spiritualist movement in that paper."

Carried with acclamation.

A vote of thanks to the retiring officers was heartily accorded for the manner in which they had conducted the work of the Society during the past year, and a vote of thanks to the chair brought the meeting to a close.

At a subsequent committee meeting Mr. J. Coltman resigned the office of treasurer to which he had been elected. The resignation was accepted with regret, and Mr. W. Hunter was appointed treasurer, while Mr. John Hare was elected vice-president in room of Mr. Hunter.

WALSALL.

THE Walsall Spiritualists held their anniversary meeting on the 2nd ult. by taking tea together, about 54 sitting down to the repast. After tea some friends gave their services in singing and reciting, and in presiding at the piano, so that a very pleasant meeting was the result. Dessert was handed round during the evening, and the proceedings concluded with dancing. This commemorates the first year of public work in the cause of Spiritualism, which has been sustained by a great deal of free labour by many friends. We hope we shall still receive assistance to carry on the work that has been so well commenced, as we are satisfied that the cause is taking strong hold of many minds, and the truth is beginning to shine in all directions in the district. We have great confidence that if we have the privilege of seeing February, 1881, we shall also see a strong society able to sustain itself in the noble work now begun.—THOS. BLINKHORN, Secretary, 16, George-street, Walsall.

M. Camille Flammarion, the eminent French astronomer, writes:—"It is by the study of Spiritualism that Mr. Crookes has been led to his magnificent discoveries.—*Revue Spirite*."

SPIRITUAL NOTES.

VOL. I.—No. XXI.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

Reports of proceedings of Societies or Committees, and announcements of their prospective arrangements, in as succinct a form as possible, and authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer are solicited for insertion in *SPIRITUAL NOTES*. Mediums and Lecturers are also invited to forward particulars of their prospective engagements for announcement. Members of home or select circles will oblige by contributing brief records of sances for publication; and Inquirers forming new circles are especially invited to report their proceedings, and to state any difficulties which may arise in the course of their investigations, with the view of permanently recording results and obtaining advice from other investigators.

To ensure early insertion reports should reach the Editor not later than 23rd of the month; and correspondents are requested to write legibly, and on one side of the paper only.

The Editor cannot undertake the return of manuscripts unless the writers expressly request it at the time of forwarding, and enclose stamps for the return postage.

All communications should be addressed to Mr. Thomas Blyton, 53, Sigdon Road, Dalston, E.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Annual Subscription for "*SPIRITUAL NOTES*," post free within the United Kingdom, is 2s. 6d., payable in advance.

Societies can obtain a monthly parcel, for sale or distribution amongst their members or others, on special terms. Particulars on application.

ADVERTISEMENT CHARGES.

Five Lines in column (about ten words to line), 3s. 6d. Each additional line, 6d. Whole column, £1 15s. Whole page, £3. A reduction made for a series of insertions.

Orders must reach the Office by the 25th of the month to be in time for the following month's issue.

To Correspondents.

J. C.—Thanks for your note, but we have no room for it this month.

E. W.—Do not be impatient. All will come right in time.

A. E. B.—Tell your friend that, if he is so very anxious to help the Cause, he cannot do better than make a liberal gift to the B.N.A.S.

MINDS NOT MADE FOR BELIEF.

MR. PODMORE, at a recent discussion meeting at Great Russell-street, called attention to a matter which deserves something more than a mere passing notice—namely, the difficulty which he, in common with some others, experienced, in "believing" in the reality of the phenomena called Spiritual, even though he was compelled intellectually to admit that the evidence for them is "logically irrefragable." The fact was, he said, that on some minds these phenomena make a great impression at the moment, but the effect soon fades. "The mind reflects, but does not photograph them. I build nothing on such records. I draw no conclusions from them. They have ceased to impress me by the pure wonder of them, and they make no other impression in its stead." There is no doubt that in many instances this is so, but why is it? In the course of the discussion Mr. Stainton-Moses bore his testimony to the reality of such a frame of mind. It was, he said, a common one among scientific thinkers, and one that in its chronic form of confirmed and encouraged scepticism was rather a note of the age. It was probably to be in some measure explained by the cir-

cumstance that the phenomena of Spiritualism did not hook on to antecedent experience, but, on the contrary, transcended it, and even traversed the conclusions of science in some respects. Some men (to use a well-worn phrase) have no niche in their minds into which these things will fit. All who go below the surface find their antecedent experience of no help, and see themselves face to face with facts that are not linked to ordinary scientific experience, or even to daily knowledge and common sense. Pushed into a corner the mind revolts, and only prolonged experience, and a knowledge that chances to few, enable it to rest secure in belief. To most come rude shocks, contradictions, and absurdities, which deal perpetual blows at faith, and make the mental foothold insecure.

Whatever the solution of the curious problem may be the fact is one well worth discussion. Every Spiritualist must know men to whom any narrative, however carefully detailed, of the phenomena of Spiritualism sounds like an idle tale. They simply put it aside, it being to them more likely that the narrator should be deceived, or a deceiver, than that universal experience should be contradicted. Others believe, are even enthusiastic for a while, and then lapse into incredulity. The impression dies out, the facts not being assimilated and digested. Is this owing to the power of spirit influence under favourable circumstances, and to the lack of it when such hard sceptics are left to themselves? Is it that the spiritual food does not nourish, and so is rejected? Is it that such have not yet reached the plane when such knowledge satisfies? Is it mental deficiency, spiritual sterility, or the height of philosophic wisdom? Who can tell? Mr. Podmore was inclined to suggest that the sense whereby spiritual facts are appreciated requires development.

The question is in itself, we think, part of the wider one raised by the general bewilderment and contradictions, the mental state of mistrust and doubt caused in a great number of minds by exclusive attention to the mere phenomenal side of Spiritualism. Any mind that cannot rest satisfied with surface explanations, but dives to the underlying causes, soon finds itself face to face with a power that is intelligent indeed, but unreliable; that is apparently unscrupulous in action, and that takes delight in mystification and deceit. If Spiritualism means association with such beings alone then the mind soon revolts, and shrinks from the attempt to grasp causes that perpetually elude, and to understand and control beings who are at once irresponsible and beyond his reach. This we hold to be the source of much of the mental inconsistency alluded to by Mr. Podmore.

Notes.

THE next soirée of the B.N.A.S. will be held on the evening of the 23rd inst. Members and friends are requested to note the date, and to make a point of attending. Dr. Nichols will be present, and will give a brief narrative of some of his strange experiences in Spiritualism. The committee have also provided an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music.

At the fortnightly discussion meeting of the B.N.A.S., on the 2nd ult., the Rev. W. Miall read an interesting paper on "Treatment of Spiritualism a Test of Character." This paper has been printed at length in the *Spiritualist*; we have space only to allude to some of its most salient points. The rev. gentleman noted the indication of character, as exemplified in the treatment of Spiritualism, both by its advocates and its opponents. It will be most important, perhaps, to note what he said about its friends. There were some amongst them, he said, who did honestly describe facts as they conceived of them, and adduced the arguments which they deemed conclusive; but, on the other hand, there were found amongst the upholders of Spiritualism the superficial, the credulous, and the fanatical. Such people adduced instances of spirit agency in the absence of evidence which any child might see to be essential to their verification. Deplorable instances even of the utter absence of moral principle were also but too common. Then again there was a frequent substitution of theory for facts, and a tendency in some quarters to speak disparagingly of tests, instead of telling people what tests were sufficient, and why they were so, and urging the public to apply them carefully, and by no means to be content with results obtained in their absence. Too slight importance, moreover, was attached to the adhesion of men of acknowledged ability as scientific authorities, although the names of three or four such men had already done more to secure for Spiritualism the recognition which it had received than three or four hundred other names could have done. The absence of due zeal in the interests of a subject of such incomparable importance was also a matter for the rev. gentleman's animadversion, he having met on every hand with persons who, anxious to be convinced, had failed to find any intelligent Spiritualist ready to invite them to a seat in their own circles, and otherwise help them to an acquaintance with the phenomena. In the discussion which followed opinions differed somewhat on some of the points which Mr. Miall had raised, but upon the whole, he seemed to have the concurrence of his audience.

At the discussion meeting on February 16th Mr. Frank Podmore read a very interesting paper, "A Voice from Laodicea," to an audience which was not so large as that which usually assembles on these occasions. The argument was extremely close, and very difficult of condensation into any brief summary. The paper will, we believe, appear in the *Psychological Review*, and in our leading article we deal with one or two points which were dwelt upon by speakers in the discussion that followed; one of the best sustained, by the way, that we have listened to on these occasions. It was well kept up by Mrs. Hallock, Mr. Miall, Mr. Smith, Mr. E. T. Bennett, Mr. Shorter and Mr. Stainton-Moses.

MESSRS. FIRMAN and CHAPMAN having recently visited Birmingham and Macclesfield, and had some successful sances there, are now staying at Manchester, but will shortly start for Russia at the request of the Emperor.

A WRITER in *Nature*—a periodical, we need not say, severely scientific—speculates regarding the senses, and thinks it possible that evolution may, in time, so modify the relation between the *ego* and *non ego* as to amount practically to the acquisition of new senses. The molecular vibrations in the brain accompanying thought may, he thinks, affect a surrounding medium—possibly the luminiferous ether—and so convey impressions to a distant brain even when the ordinary avenues of sense are closed.

He thinks that this speculation is fortified by "the ascertained facts of mesmerism and clairvoyance." He considers these to point to "a natural development of human faculty, at present appearing only sporadically and in few persons, but destined, perhaps, by-and-bye, to become a universal possession in more or less degree."

To him replies a certain anonymous F.R.S., who sarcastically twits him with writing in a journal professedly scientific, of mesmerism and clairvoyance as "ascertained facts." He professes a wholesome contempt for "the jaunty way in which Dr. Carpenter rides his favourite hobby along the 'high priori road,'" and admits that "Spiritualists have sufficiently good ground for complaint" against the arrogant behaviour of the great egotist. This is a refreshing sign of candour which goes far to make us hope that some good medium will respond to the offer made by "F.R.S." to investigate the subject. He has taken already a good deal of trouble, and has met with "one or two things that he is unable satisfactorily to explain." "Will any Spiritualist," he asks, "who really believes in his own belief supply me with an opportunity to investigate 'the powers of darkness' without any feelings of animosity against them?"

THIS is the appeal. The answer is that such opportunities of investigation are open to any inquiring mind who is ready to take the necessary trouble. Mr. Eglinton has always shown a readiness to submit to proper conditions of test, and he would be a very proper medium for the purpose of investigation. But the tone that pervades "F.R.S.'s" letter leads us to fear that he would not be disposed to take the necessary trouble. He seems to imagine that phenomena can be had to order, and be repeated at will. This is not so. But if ordinary patience and care be exercised, and necessary conditions be complied with, we entertain no doubt whatever that the one or two things that he cannot explain will be largely added to.

THE Rev. Joseph Cook, of Boston, U.S.A., is a preacher of the truly American gymnastic type. With a superficial smattering of science, and an abundant command of strong language untempered by any doubts as to his perfect knowledge of any question that it may please him to handle, he attracts to his Monday lectures a considerable audience especially of young men. He has lately been dealing with Spiritualism in a manner all his own, and has denounced with full-flavoured vigour "the leprous followers" of that much-abused belief. There is nothing in the faintest degree new in anything he says. The well-worn experiments of Mr. Crookes, and of the Dialectical Society, are hashed up once again, and he inclines to the belief that modern Spiritualism is Demonology, though, with characteristic inconsistency, he says in the course of his discursive remarks that "Spiritualism quickens the distinctively Christian faith of many;" that it is "the subtlest foe that materialism has to deal with;" and that "in Spiritualism is an undiscovered fact which will become a two-edged sword against Rationalism itself."

THIS is pretty well for the "leprous" faith, and may be accepted by the same part of the world as a fair reply to the question, *Cui bono?* Mr. Cook, it is amusing to note, has brought an avenger upon him in the person of Colonel Ingersoll, who denounces him "with terrible earnestness," and in unproductive language, for his misstatements respecting him, winding up with informing his hearers that Mr. Cook does not belong to the same portion of mankind, inasmuch as he "had been a year in an insane asylum." Two mistakes the pugnacious Colonel says were made about him. "They did not put him there soon enough; and they let him out too soon." We do not know what exact truth there may be in the allegation, but it is plain enough that Mr. Cook's is not a very evenly balanced mind.

MISS GAY, of Pennance House, Falmouth, is engaged in writing the life of Mr. J. W. Fletcher, and, in her chapters on "spirit-identity," she is anxious to state that she has received personal communications from those who have had sances with him, corroborative of the evidence published in their names in the spiritual journals. Those of our readers who can testify to good instances of spirit-identity in connection with their experiences of Mr. Fletcher's mediumship will perhaps kindly communicate with Miss Gay.

M. SAURY, in a recent publication written in "Cambyse's vein," denounces Professor Zöllner as wanting in respect for the "laws of mechanical monism," and as having passed from bradypepsia to dyspepsia, a step further. History repeats itself. Long ago it was said of the promulgator of unpalatable truths, "He hath a devil, and is mad." The same M. Saury declares that there is a secret understanding between Ultramontaniam and Spiritualism!

WE regret to see from a valedictory note appended to the current number of the *Psychological Review* that with this month the issue of our contemporary ceases. When Mr. Tebb projected the *Review* as a quarterly he hoped that a place would be found for a magazine which was intended to put before Spiritualists articles of solid merit, and of greater length than could be inserted in the ordinary journals of Spiritualism. That expectation was not realised. The times were unpropitious, and a variety of causes conspired to render the venture unsuccessful. After a year's trial Mr. Tebb turned his energies in another direction, and since then the publisher has continued the *Review* as a monthly. Such a magazine, however, requires careful editing, and more superintendence than a busy man much occupied in other work can give it. Mr. Nisbet has therefore concluded to cease the publication at the end of the first twelve months which expire with March.

WE cannot but regret that the movement will no longer possess a magazine in which papers, longer and more elaborate than we can give place to, may be submitted to the public. It needs only that a capable editor should take the matter in hand to ensure success; and we hope that such a man may yet be found. It is an open secret that application was made to Mr. Stainton-Moses to undertake the editorship of a magazine, but that gentleman did not feel himself able to add to his already too onerous duties such a charge. Special work of a pressing nature now occupies his attention, and for this year at least he considered that he would not be justified in undertaking what would add so greatly to the claims upon his time. He expressed himself, however, as willing to entertain the proposition next year, if, in the mean-

time, sufficient support in this country and in America were forthcoming. There must be room for a good magazine: many friends would gladly support such a venture in good hands, and there could be no lack of writers. We hope that January, 1887, may see the plan put into execution.

MRS. ELGIE CORNER is, we regret to hear, very ill. No wonder. The recent event could not be expected to have any other effect than that of a serious shock to so sensitive a nature. We sincerely hope that she will speedily be restored to health. If we had believed her to be a cheat she would have received but little mercy at our hands. As we have the most complete confidence in her innocence she has our fullest sympathy.

MRS. FLETCHER'S sances at 38, Great Russell-street, which were looked forward to with great interest, were not begun at the time fixed, it having unfortunately been found necessary to postpone them, as Mrs. Fletcher had been sent away by her medical advisers for the benefit of her health. She is now on the Continent, but hopes to be able to return to London during the present month, and the sances will then be commenced. Her friends will be pleased to see her in renewed health.

"BOB and I; or, Forget-me-Nots from God's Garden," by F. J. Theobald (London, James Clark and Co.), is an endless story. By this it is not meant that the narrative is a lengthy one. On the contrary, it rather falls short of the ordinary limits of a child's story-book than exceeds them. But it is fragmentary. It is a short experience, and one single startling incident taken out of two childish lives, and then the story ends unconventionally, but, on that account, more like the life-histories it professes to represent. Bob and Jenny—for the latter is intended by the first personal pronoun in the title—do not get married, at all events as yet (for there is more of the story to come it seems), but these little "Forget-me-Nots" get into a terrible danger, while the peril and its ending are each clearly seen by a sick lady who has the gift of clairvoyance. There is the charm of the work for us. It is full of spiritual truth, not forced in artificially, but cropping up naturally to the surface as it would naturally do if stories were always fully written, for we believe there are few life-histories which have not their element of the so-called supernatural. Accordingly "Bob and I," while a story to fascinate children, is one that will be read with interest for other and deeper reasons by those whose eyes have been opened to higher phases of truth than those which are merely material.

MR. W. EGLINTON leaves England to-day, March 1, for Leipsic, having placed his services at the disposal of professors there, free of charge. From Leipsic he goes to Vienna, Prague, Munich, Berlin, Dresden, Wiesbaden, Sweden, and Denmark, and many towns in Bohemia, at which places he has engagements. His absence from England will therefore extend over several months.

DR. JESSOPP, head master of Norwich Grammar School, who lately wrote in the *Athenaeum* an account of a ghost which he said he saw in the library at Lord Orford's country seat in Norfolk, has received so many ghost stories from correspondents who have written to him since the publication of his letter, that he intends to publish a selection of these marvels.

A HAUNTED CASTLE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

A. M. ALGOL communicates to the *Revue Spirite* certain incidents which ought to be capable of verification, and which the materialists of all countries are respectfully invited to explain by "unconscious cerebration," "dominant ideas," and other stock formulae.

The chateau of D—, in the neighbourhood of Saint A—, has for centuries been the scene of unaccountable phenomena. Both the master of the house and visitors have often been disturbed in their sleep by sighs and groans. Nothing else was observed until 1878. But about 9 o'clock on Easter evening strange lights appeared in the avenues of the park which vanished on being approached. All the bells in the castle began to ring of themselves, at first feebly and then violently, though on examination all the cords were motionless, and three of them were without wires, and had probably been so for a century. The next day the sounds increased. For more than three weeks there were heard blows as of hammers upon casks in the cellars. On visiting the place the sounds gradually ceased and recommenced when the exploring party returned. A frightful noise began in the upper passages as if hundreds of plates were set violently rolling. There were, besides, acute shrieks, hisses, blows in all directions, stones and fine sand falling upon the visitors even though the doors were closed. The massive dining-table turned slowly, reared up, and emitted a sound like the rattle in the throat of a person who is being strangled. If a piece of paper was laid down in any part of the castle in a few minutes it was found written upon as with a red crayon. This experiment was tried successfully more than a hundred times. More than twenty persons, known to the writer, witnessed these scenes. A gigantic form was repeatedly seen walking in the park. No one ventured to approach it too nearly as J. de D— received in his face a violent blow which made it bleed for some minutes, and the writer himself was pelted with stones.

THE TESTIMONIAL TO DR. MONCK.

WE call attention once again to the appeal of the influential committee who have Dr. Monck's testimonial in hand. We have watched the growth of this fund with much pleasure, the more so because from the first we knew how much hung upon its success. At the outset the committee had to overcome a considerable amount of prejudice which existed in some quarters against Dr. Monck, arising out of the unfortunate circumstances connected with his prosecution in 1876, and certain injurious reports which have been freely circulated since. We are in a position to know that into these reports a most exhaustive inquiry was made by some of the gentlemen whose names appear upon the committee, and that in every case the rumours were proved to be absolutely untrue. The committee, however, in our opinion acted wisely after being thoroughly satisfied, in not raking up old grievances, but in trusting, as they have not unsuccessfully done, to the

guarantee which their good names would offer to the Spiritualistic public. There are still many friends of Dr. Monck who have not contributed, but that is a mistake which can be rectified even now, and as we are behind the scenes we may say that about £100 more is really wanted to accomplish what the committee are desirous of doing—viz. to render such assistance as shall place Dr. Monck, for a time at least, in an independent position. During Dr. Monck's long illness he has been repeatedly thrown into trances in the house of his excellent friends Mr. and Mrs. Cranstoun, with whom he has lived for nearly two years; and in these trances several important mechanical inventions have been given through him. These have been submitted to eminent Birmingham manufacturers, and some of them have not only been tested but have been approved and patented on his behalf by shrewd men of business. In doing this expenses have been incurred, and Dr. Monck has had to live literally upon the kindness of friends. The fund now raised is insufficient to repay the outlay incurred, and to carry on the manufactures until they become remunerative, as it is confidently believed they will do if he is still further helped. It is therefore most earnestly hoped that Spiritualists will not let this matter fail within sight of success. One subscriber has suggested to the committee that the donations now given should become annual until no longer needed. Without going so far as this, probably some wealthy friends may be induced to repeat their donations, while others, we trust, will, after this brief recital of facts, cast in their mites amongst the contributions of the many distinguished men whose names are already to be found in the list which appears this month in our advertising pages.

YORKSHIRE NOTES.

THE Yorkshire District Committee are now working on a firm basis. The £500 guarantee fund has been well sustained, and all feel amply repaid for past labours.

The following gentlemen form the new committee:—Mr. B. Lees, Sowerby Bridge, president; Mr. Wm. Backhouse, Bradford, vice-president; Mr. J. Armitage, Batley Carr, treasurer; Mr. R. Jarvis and Mr. J. Clayton, auditors. Committee:—Messrs. J. Hall, W. Thornton, Leach, Pool (Bradford), J. Sutcliffe, H. Robinson (Sowerby Bridge), S. Wilson, Appleyard, B. Downsborough (Halifax), J. Wilson, J. Kilbron, W. Fenton (Batley Carr), C. Illingworth (Bingley), R. Whimpenny, C. Ollif, J. Hallgarth (Ossett), J. Turner (Booth Town), J. Ward, C. Senior (Churwell), J. Eddison, E. Lingford, W. Owen, J. Armstead (Leeds), J. Dent (Heckmondwike), J. Judson, E. Morrell (Keighley), P. Aspinall (Brighouse). The hon. secretary, who resides at 2, Cordingley-street, Bradford, will be glad to communicate with speakers travelling through Yorkshire, post information to inquirers, and otherwise assist in popularising the truths of spirit communion.

The report which appears in another page is a silent testimony in favour of unity, and speaks well of the efforts of the committee.

The local speakers work zealously under the auspices of the committee. Prominent amongst

others are:—Mr. J. Armitage, Mr. J. Blackburn, Mr. J. Dent, Mrs. Dobson, Mrs. Illingworth, Mrs. Jarvis, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Butler. The whole of their services are given free, their conduct throughout being most commendable.

The visit of Mr. W. H. Lambelle has made a deep impression for good. He was favoured everywhere with crowded audiences. Another engagement with him is pending.

Mr. Matthews, the well-known clairvoyant test medium, has removed from Halifax to Saltaire, a charming place of residence. The Yorkshire friends are proud of his presence amongst them, and all sincerely wish that he may long be spared to exercise the great gifts with which he is endowed.

The friends of the Brotherhood Lyceum, Keighley (the richest society in Yorkshire), strongly decline to affiliate themselves with the district committee. The reason advanced is that they are "afraid the committee will not succeed." Meanwhile, they wait the results of the labours of their more earnest brethren in other towns! "Such is life!"

Since the formation of the committee the regular attendance at the Sunday services of each society has been greatly augmented.

To keep pace with the times we want more normal speakers, and it is to be hoped they, each society, will set about establishing improvement classes for instruction in the facts and philosophy of our noble science.

The next conference will be held at Bradford, when Mr. J. J. Morse will commence an engagement for nine meetings. The friends are on the tip-toe of expectation, and a good time is anticipated.

In every respect the prospects for the future is most encouraging. It is rumoured that in a few months our Yorkshire friends may look out for some startling phenomena.

A few weeks ago a worthy pastor in a small town not far from Leeds conceived the plan of making himself popular by lecturing against Spiritualism. One of his deacons, thinking the anticipated victory would be greater if his beloved shepherd could attend a *bona fide* séance previous to the lecture being given, made arrangements with a celebrated clairvoyant test medium for a private meeting. Accordingly, on the evening appointed, the exulting pastor attended, accompanied by two deacons. Without any preliminaries the proceedings commenced by a series of excellent clairvoyant tests, but none of which the pastor would acknowledge. Finally, a painfully private incident was divulged which had occurred before he had entered the ministry. Still the pastor remained quiet until one of the deacons inquired if the incident really did take place. The worthy pastor immediately burst into tears, and, acknowledging the truth, said, "Had I known what I was going to experience I would never have come." The two-edged sword of truth cuts deep. I have only to add that the proposed lecture has not yet been given.

YORKSHIREMAN.

ACCORDING to *Licht mehr Licht* M. E. Bonnemère is about to publish a treatise "On Spiritualism in the Time of Louis XV."

Arrangements for March.

* * Secretaries of Societies, Mediums, Lecturers, and others, are requested to furnish their notices to the Editor of SPIRITUAL NOTES by the 23rd of each month to ensure their publication in the following issue.

BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(Secretary: Miss Burke.)

(For the Calendar of Work for March see Advertising columns).

BRIXTON PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

6, Akerman-road, Brixton.

(Hon. Secretary, H. E. Francis)

The object of the Society is to promote the study of Psychology and Spiritualism, and kindred subjects. Members have the privilege of attending séances with well-known mediums, and are entitled to the use of books on Spiritualism from the Library.

CARDIFF SPIRITUAL SOCIETY.

(Heathfield House, 1, West Luton Race, Cardiff.

President: Mr. Rees Lewis. Hon. Sec.: Mr. A. J. Smart.)

Sundays.—Public meeting, at 6.30 p.m.

Wednesdays.—Developing circle.

Thursdays.—Materialisation, or Physical Manifestations (for members).

DALSTON ASSOCIATION OF ENQUIRERS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

(Hon. Secretary: Thos. Blyton, 53, Sigdon Road, Dalston, E.)

Tuesday, 2nd.—Subscription Séance, at 8. Mr. W. G. Haxby, medium. Admission, 2s. 6d.

Thursday, 4th.—Ordinary Weekly Experimental Séance, at 8.

Monday, 8th.—Discussion. "The Greek Philosophers to Plato, viewed from a Spiritual standpoint," by Mr. A. E. Hunter, of Jesus College, Cambridge. Chair at 8.30.

Thursday, 11th.—Session of Council, at 6.45. Ordinary Weekly Experimental Séance at 8.

Tuesday, 16th.—Subscription Séance, at 8. Mr. W. G. Haxby, medium. Admission 2s. 6d.

Thursday, 18th.—Ordinary Weekly Experimental Séance, at 8.

Monday, 22nd.—Discussion. "The Relation of Spiritualism to Modern Thought," by Miss Susan E. Gay. Chair at 8.30.

Thursday, 25th.—Special Séance, at 8.

GLASGOW ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS.

(President: J. Walker, Esq. Hon. Sec.: Mr. J. Coates. 65, Jamaica-street).

Lectures every Sunday morning, at 11.30, in Hall, 164, Trongate; and evening, at 6.30, Trades Hall, Glassford-street.

GREAT YARMOUTH ASSOCIATION OF INVESTIGATORS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

(Secretary: Mr. R. R. Dale, 3, Waterpark Terrace, Southtown Road, Great Yarmouth

Sundays.—Instructive Séances, at which Discourses are delivered.

Tuesdays.—Investigators' Séance.
Thursdays.—Development Séance.

GOSWELL HALL.

(Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. J. Stevens, 224, Albany Road, Camberwell).

Sundays—Morning Conferences, at 11. Evening Trance Addresses, at 7. Admission free.

Thursday, 25th.—A Happy Evening. Tickets, 1s. each, to be obtained of the hon. sec.

HACKNEY SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE SOCIETY

(6, Field View Terrace, London Fields, E. Mr. C. R. Williams, Manager.)

Sundays, a 6.30 for 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 8 p.m.—Séances for Materialisation or Form Manifestations.

Wednesdays, at 8 p.m.—Dark Experimental Séance. Spiritualists only, or by introduction.

Mondays and Saturdays, at 8 p.m.—Inquirers' Séances for Experiments in Mesmerism, Clairvoyance, and Physical Mediumship.

Voluntary Contributions towards expenses.

MARYLEBONE ASSOCIATION.

(Quebec Hall, 25, Great Quebec-street.)

Sunday mornings, at 11.15, Developing Meeting.

Sunday evenings, at 6.45, Meetings of a Devotional Character. Sacred Songs and Readings by Miss A. Waite.

Wednesday evenings, at 8.30, Circle for Members, Outer Circle for friends.

Saturday evenings, at 7.30, Mr. Hancock attends to speak with strangers. Séance, Mr. Savage, Medium.

Sunday, 7th.—Quarterly Tea and Anniversary. Tickets for Tea, 1s., sacred songs, &c., after.

Monday, 8th.—Entertainment. Dancing from 10 till 11.30.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

(Weir's-court, Newgate-street. President: J. Mould. Hon. Secretary: H. A. Kersey.)

Sunday, 7th.—Mr. J. J. Morse, Trance Address, at 2.30 and 6.30.

Monday, 8th.—Mr. J. J. Morse, Trance Address, at 8.

Sunday, 14th.—Mme. d'Esperance will read a paper written by her Guides on their Experiences in Spirit Life, at 6.30.

Sunday, 21st.—Mr. W. Wallis, Trance Address, 2.30 and 6.30.

Monday, 22nd.—Ditto, at 7.30.

Sunday, 28th.—Mr. F. O. Matthews (expected).

Admission free. Collection to defray expenses.

WEEKLY SÉANCES AND MEETINGS.

Sunday.—Séance, at 10.30. "Form Manifestations," Miss C. E. Wood.

— Children's Lyceum, 2.30.

Tuesday.—Séance, at 8. "Physical Manifestations," Miss C. E. Wood.

Wednesday.—At 7.45, Spiritualists' Improvement Class. Discussion.

Thursday.—Séance, at 8. "Form Manifestations," Miss C. E. Wood.

Friday and Saturday.—Developing Circles, at 8. For Members and Friends. Admission free.
Saturday, Séance, at 8. Trance and Clairvoyance, Mr. S. Compton. Admission free.

No strangers are admitted without an introduction by a Member. Spiritualists from a distance are requested to write to the Secretary before coming and arrange for so doing.

The Library of the Society is open every Wednesday evening from eight to nine o'clock, for the issue of books to Members.

IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

(Secretary: Mr. R. H. Mould, 12, St. Thomas's Crescent).

Every Wednesday evening during the session at 8 prompt. All persons are invited to attend.

Wednesday, 4th.—Essay, "Punishment," Mr. W. C.

LANCASHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

PLAN OF SPEAKERS FOR MARCH.

LIVERPOOL.

(Perth-street Hall, West Derby-road. Secretary: Mr. H. Morris, 35, Cobden-street, Everton Road. Cor. Sec.: Mr. J. Chapman, Dunkel-street, West Derby Road.)

Sunday, 7th.—Mr. J. Clegg, of Liverpool.

— 14th.—Mr. Johnson, of Hyde.

— 21st.—Mr. Morse, of London.

— 28th.—Mr. Clegg.

ROCHDALE.

(Assembly Rooms, Co-Operative Store, corner of Milnrow and Oldham-road. Secretary: Mr. L. Firth, 16, Equitable-street).

Sunday, 7th.—Miss E. A. Hall, of Manchester.

— 14th.—Mr. J. Clegg, of Liverpool.

— 21st.—Mr. Johnson, of Hyde.

— 28th.—Mr. John Lamont, of Liverpool.

NEW MILLS.

(Secretary: Mr. John Lithgow, Hayfield).

Sunday, 7th.—Local speaker.

— 14th.—Mr. Morse, of London.

— 21st.—Local speaker.

— 28th.—Mr. Johnson, of Hyde.

HAYFIELD.

(At Mr. John Lithgow's.)

Monday, 15th.—Mr. J. J. Morse, of London, at 7.30.

BOLTON.

(Reform Room, Duke-street. Secretary: Mr. James Cross, 42, Poplar-street.)

Sunday, 7th.—Mr. W. Johnson, of Hyde.

— 14th.—Local Speaker.

Wednesday, 17th.—Mr. Morse, of London, at 7.30.

Sunday, 21st.—Mr. T. B. Tetlow, of Heywood.

— 28th.—Local Speaker.

OLDHAM.

(Society's Hall, 186, Union Street. Secretary: Mr. Thomas Kershaw, 8, High Street.)

Tuesday, 16th.—Mr. Morse, of London, at 7.30.

WHITWORTH.

(At Mr. Clegg's, Victoria Terrace, Market Place, Healey.)

Thursday, 18th.—Mr. Morse, of London, at 7.30.

MANCHESTER (at Miss Johnson's).

Friday, 19th.—Mr. Morse, of London, at 7.30.

TESTIMONIAL FOR DR. MONCK.

THE undersigned earnestly appeal to Spiritualists to contribute liberally to the Testimonial now under their care. If a sufficient sum is raised to complete the patenting and manufacture of several inventions, which have already met the approval of competent men of business, it is the hope of Dr. Monck to return to his work as soon as his health permits as an UNPAID MEDIUM.

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MR. THOS. WALKER is now in England, and is open to Engagements for Lectures on the Facts, Philosophy, and Teachings of Spiritualism. Mr. Walker will pay a farewell visit to London early in April next prior to his leaving England for South Africa; and requests those who desire to secure his services to make their arrangements without delay.

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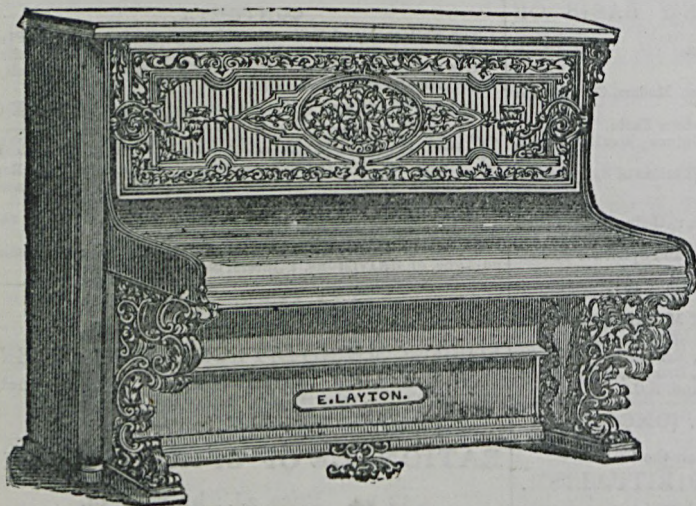
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